

News in brief

US designates group that claimed Kashmir attack as terrorists



◆ The United States on Thursday designated as terrorists a shadowy group that claimed an April attack in Kashmir, which triggered Indian strikes on Pakistani territory. Secretary of State Marco Rubio described The Resistance Front as a “front and proxy” of Lashkar-e-Taiba, a UN-designated terrorist group based in Pakistan. The terrorist designation “demonstrates the Trump administration’s commitment to protecting our national security interests, countering terrorism, and enforcing President (Donald) Trump’s call for justice for the Pahalgam attack,” Rubio said in a statement.

◆ A new Japanese defense policy white paper showed the country was seeking to be a major military power, North Korean state media reported a foreign ministry official as saying yesterday, who justified Pyongyang’s nuclear program on that basis. The policy section chief of the Institute for Japan Studies under the foreign ministry described the Japanese defense white paper, approved this week, as “a war scenario for realizing its ambition for reinvasion from A to Z” the Korean Central News Agency said. The white paper was approved by the cabinet of Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Tuesday.

N. Korea says Japan seeking to be a ‘military giant’



Bahrain needs advanced climate technology



KOTA SRIRAJ

Conventional methods of fighting climate change are now unable to yield satisfactory results and keep a check on the deteriorating environment. The need to combine climate technologies with conventional methods to tackle climate change is increasingly being seen as the latest strategy to safeguard nature and protect mankind from the vagaries of worsening climate conditions. Climate technologies are innovative solutions designed to mitigate the effects of climate change. These techno-solutions are designed for a variety of sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, carbon capture, sustainable agriculture, and transportation. Implementation of these technologies has paid rich dividends to nations around the world in combating climate change.

Bahrain has been at the forefront of fighting climate change thanks to its advanced initiatives to protect the environment. In the field of climate technologies implementation too Bahrain has taken an active lead. As a part of this, The Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) is actively involved in various projects and campaigns, including a Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) exercise to implement climate technologies. TNA is a critical component of Bahrain’s broader climate strategy to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2035 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2060, this in turn can help Bahrain achieve its national climate goals.

TNA however must be followed by a robust technology intervention strategy that is capable of offsetting adverse climate change impacts of present and future as well. In this regard, Bahrain must accelerate its technology innovation quotient and adopt out of the box scientific advancements to handle present day climate challenges. For instance, cement is the main ingredient for concrete and is responsible for 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Due to burgeoning construction sector, cement production and usage is skyrocketing in Bahrain and therefore provides an apt opportunity to apply technology to rein in its carbon footprint by decarbonising it production.

Traditional cement production requires heating limestone to 1450 degrees centigrade using fossil fuels, moreover limestone further produces Co2 emissions when undergoing chemical reaction. But now a new technology using a rare strain of bacteria is helping produce biocement that is organically produced. Similarly, cutting edge technology is being utilised to boost the ocean’s natural ability to absorb Co2 by using artificial intelligence (AI) engineered particles that control phytoplankton growth, this helps quickly sink Co2 to the ocean floor, thereby sequestering the same for thousands of years.

In the current scenario Bahrain must source cutting edge technologies from across the world and implement the same in order to overcome climate related challenges. This alone can help effectively mitigate the harmful effects of climate change.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

Sweida clashes renew in Syria

Fighting escalates as Bedouin tribes clash with Druze militants

- Army withdrew after Israeli strikes, diplomatic pressure
- UN calls for independent investigation into killings
- Israel sends \$600K in aid to Druze

AFP | Walgha

Armed tribes clashed with Druze fighters in the community’s Sweida heartland yesterday, a day after the army withdrew under Israeli bombardment and diplomatic pressure.

The United Nations called for an end to the “bloodshed” and demanded an “independent” investigation of the violence, which has claimed nearly 600 lives since Sunday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa ordered government forces to pull out, saying that mediation by the United States and others had helped avert a “large-scale escalation” with Israel.

Tribal reinforcements from across Syria gathered in villages around Sweida yesterday to reinforce local Bedouin, whose longstanding enmity towards the Druze erupted into violence last weekend.

Anas al-Enad, a tribal chief from the central city of Hama, said he and his men had made the journey to the village of Walgha, northwest of Sweida, because “the Bedouin called for our help and we came to support them”.

Homes and shops burned in the village, now under the control of the Bedouin and their allies.

The Britain-based Observatory said “the deployment of tribal fighters to Sweida province was



Fighters from Bedouin tribes gather near a burning building in al-Mazraa village, in Syria’s southern Sweida governorate, as clashes with Druze gunmen continue

facilitated by government forces, because government forces are unable to deploy to Sweida under the terms of the security agreement with Israel”.

Israel sends aid for Druze

Israel, which bombed the Syrian army in Sweida and Damascus earlier this week to put pressure on the government to withdraw, said yesterday that it was sending aid to the Druze community in Sweida.

“In light of the recent attacks targeting the Druze community in Sweida and the severe humanitarian situation in the area, Foreign Minister Gideon Saar has ordered the urgent transfer of humanitarian aid to the Druze population in the region,” the foreign ministry said.

The two million shekel (nearly \$600,000) package includes food parcels and medical supplies, the ministry said.

A ceasefire was supposed to take effect on Thursday, but Sharaa’s office accused Druze fighters of violating it.

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The fighting in Sweida—triggered by the kidnapping of a Druze merchant—has forced nearly 2,000 families to flee, left the city’s streets eerily deserted, and drawn rare cross-border Israeli aid to the embattled Druze

Sweida has been heavily damaged in the fighting and its mainly Druze inhabitants have been deprived of mains water and electricity, while communication lines have been cut.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said that nearly 2,000 families had been forced from their

homes in Sweida province.

Rayan Maarouf, editor-in-chief of local news outlet Suwayda 24, said the humanitarian situation was “catastrophic”.

“We cannot find milk for children,” he said.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk called for an end to the bloodshed, saying “the protection of all people must be the utmost priority”.

He demanded “independent, prompt and transparent investigations into all violations” adding that “those responsible must be held to account”.

The latest violence erupted on Sunday after the kidnapping of a Druze vegetable merchant by local Bedouin triggered tit-for-tat abductions, the Britain-based Observatory said.

The government sent in the army, promising to put a halt to the fighting, but witnesses and the Observatory said the troops sided with the Bedouin and committed many abuses, against Druze civilians as well as fighters.

Trump diagnosed with vein issue after leg swelling and hand bruising

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump has been diagnosed with a common, benign vein condition, the White House said, following speculation about his heavily bruised hand and swollen legs.

The 79-year-old, who in January became the oldest person ever to assume the presidency, was found to have “chronic venous insufficiency,” Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters.

The widely noted discoloration on Trump’s right hand, meanwhile, was “tissue irritation from frequent handshaking” and the use of aspirin as part of a standard cardiovascular treatment, she said.

Presidential physician Sean Barbabella said Trump “remains in excellent health” despite the condition, in a letter released by the White House.

The Republican frequently



US President Donald Trump’s right hand is seen as he speaks to the press

boasts of his good health and energy levels while the administration recently even posted an image depicting him as Superman.

Trump has alleged that Democrats covered up the mental and physical decline of his predecessor, Joe Biden, who was 82 when he left office in January.

Now Trump, who said after undergoing a routine medical check-up that he was in “very good shape,” has been forced to answer questions about his own health.

Leavitt’s revelations follow widespread online discussions about the president’s visibly swollen ankles, seen in particu-

lar at the recent FIFA Club World Cup final in New Jersey, and a bruised hand that often appeared to be covered with make-up.

“In recent weeks, President Trump noted mild swelling in his lower legs,” Leavitt said, adding that he was examined by White House doctors “out of an abundance of caution.”

Ultrasound tests “revealed chronic venous insufficiency, a benign and common condition, particularly in individuals over the age of 70.”

The condition involves damaged leg veins that fail to keep blood flowing properly.

Leavitt said Trump had asked her to share the diagnosis “in the effort of transparency.”

Dr. Matt Heinz, an internist and hospitalist from Tucson, Arizona, told AFP that chronic venous insufficiency is “pretty common,” especially in older adults. It results from vein valves becoming less effective.